

HEALTH

A 17 OCT 49

C.R.

31

DRIFFIELD

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of
Health

For the Year 1948.

Driffield :

Printed by Horsley & Dawson, 73, Middle Street South.

DRIFFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1948.

Officers of the Sanitary Authority.

The Clerk Mr. R. B. TOLLETT
Sanitary Inspectors & Building Surveyors F. H. MARGERRISON.
Cert. R., San. I. M.S.I.A:
S. WRIGGLESWORTH,
A. R. San. I. M.S.I.A:
(from 1st October, 1948)
Medical Officer ALAN MILNER, M.B., Ch.B.

To the Chairman & Members of the Driffield Rural District Council
Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report for 1948.
There is nothing abnormal to report as to the health of the people
during the past year.

The completion of 20 new houses has helped considerably
in the overcrowding problem.

The Sections dealing with Sanitary Circumstances, Housing, Food inspection and Building are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

In regard to the first item which deals with the water supply, anxiety was felt during the latter half of the year because of the interrupted supplies to the village of Nafferton. This was reported to the Public Health Committee and the danger of empty mains becoming polluted was stressed.

The Water Engineer did not agree with this view nor did he agree that efficient chlorination was necessary to safeguard against any possible contamination.

On inspection it was found that chlorination at the Nafferton Pumping Station was quite ineffective. Following on a series of bacteriological tests being positive the Ministry of Health ordered a Public Enquiry.

Section A.**VITAL STATISTICS.**

Area	....	....	....	....	....	98,375 acres
Estimated Population	....	....	....	....	....	9,932
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£33,025
Product of a Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	....	£130

BIRTHS.**Live Births.**

				Total	M.	F.
1. Total Births	....	....	....	175	95	80
2. Legitimate	....	....	....	154	84	70
3. Illegitimate	....	....	....	21	11	10

Still Births.

1. Total Births	....	....	....	7	5	2
2. Legitimate	....	....	....	6	4	2
3. Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	1	-

Deaths.

1. All ages	....	....	....	125	66	59
2. Infants under 1 year	....	....	....	15	11	4
Legitimate	....	....	....	12	10	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	3	1	2
Birth Rate	....	....	....	17.5 per 1000 population		
Illegitimate Birth Rate	....	....	....	2.1 per 1000 population		
Stillbirth Rate	....	....	....	40.0 per 1000 Births.		
Death Rate	....	....	....	12.5 per 1000 population		
Death Rate. Infants under 1 year	....	....	....	1.5 per 1000 population		
Infantile Mortality Rate	....	....	....	85.1 per 1000 Live Births		

Causes of Death.

						M.	F.
Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	1	—
Cancer of buc. cav. & Oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	....	....	....	....	....	1	—
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	2	—
Cancer of Breast	....	....	....	....	....	—	1
Cancer of all other sites	....	....	....	....	....	2	5
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	....	....	....	....	....	4	7
Heart Diseases	....	....	....	....	....	23	17
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	....	....	....	....	....	3	3
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	—	2
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	9	3

3.

Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	....	—	1
Digestive Diseases	....	....	....	....	2	4
Maternal Causes	....	....	....	....	—	1
Premature Births	....	....	....	....	3	—
Con. mal. births mj. infant diseases	....	....	....	....	4	2
Suicide	....	....	....	....	—	1
Road traffic accidents	....	....	....	....	1	—
All other causes	....	....	....	....	11	12

Section B.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

My observations contained in previous Annual Reports regarding the water supply of the district still apply.

Hutton Pumping Station is the hub of the mains piped supply with the old Nafferton Waterworks operating as an Auxiliary. Just over 100 miles of mains serve the district, with two Booster Stations for re-pumping to the higher parts and four Reservoirs for reserve and pressure heads. The whole of the system is owned and operated by the Council, and has been under the management of the Engineer and Manager, C. B. Newton, Esq., M.Inst.C.E., F.G.S., of Hull, with a resident superintendent at the Hutton Pumping Station and a labourer.

The Hutton Pumping Station is sited on the North side of the road leading from Driffeld—Beverley main road to Southburn, midway between the villages of Hutton and Southburn.

This station is arranged to supply separately in the two directions, “East” and “West.”

The “Eastern Area” is the flat part of the district and includes Beeford, Foston (excepting Brigham village), Harpham (excepting Harpham village but including Lowthorpe and Ruston Parva), Hutton Cranswick, Kelk, Kilham, Nafferton, North Frodingham, Skerne (which includes Wansford), and the Cottam R.A.F. station, with the Kilham West Field adjacent to it.

The “Western Area” is the higher or “Wolds” part and includes Bainton, Cottam (excepting Cottam R.A.F. Station), Fimber, Fridaythorpe, Garton, Kirkburn, Langtoft, Middleton, North Dalton, Sledmere, Tibthorpe and Wetwang.

From the foregoing two lists it will be noted that the villages of Brigham, Harpham and Watton are not served by the mains, but with the exception of these villages, together with isolated houses and farms on the fringe of the district and similar houses and farms beyond reach of the mains it may be said that a piped supply provides the needs of the area.

Brigham, Harpham, Watton and the isolated parts still rely on hand pumps and are in need of the same facilities as are enjoyed by the more fortunate populous areas. The mains supply is laid into the Cranswick R.A.F. Station at Watton but is metered in as in the case of a private user; the new Council Houses at Watton are to have their domestic supply from one of these mains and will be metered out at the point of supply. For a laid-on supply to this village, advantage could conveniently be taken of these mains and thereby bring one the remaining villages, not yet provided for, within the area of the piped supply.

The Northern Boundaries Scheme, which is an extension of the supply to farms in the Driffeld, Norton and Bridlington Rural Districts, has been completed, thus providing further laid-on facilities in this area lying to the North of Langtoft, and is supplied from the "Western Area," via Collingwood reservoir.

For the supply to the "Western" area, water is pumped into the main at Hutton Pumping Station and is received into Summit Reservoir direct. At Wetwang Booster Station the water is picked up and boosted to Towthorpe Reservoir, and at Garton a similar Booster Station is located to supply Collingwood Reservoir.

The "Eastern" area supply is maintained chiefly by the Nafferton Pump, with a Reservoir sited at the old Nafferton Waterworks. Supply can also be given to this area from the Hutton Pumping Station, this means being the original intention of the Water Supply Scheme.

At the Hutton Pumping Station the supply is from two boreholes 86ft. deep and sited within the pump-house. The water is lifted and forced through the mains by electrically driven pumps and boosters, two sets of each in duplicate, for operating to the "Western" and "Eastern" areas.

The Nafferton Pumping Station has a well 216ft. deep with two boreholes in the bottom a further 50ft. deep, sited in the pump-house. Water is lifted by a single pump operated by crude oil engine and delivered into the Reservoir. This pumping plant is not in duplicate and therefore no stand-by is provided in case of breakdown.

The Cottam R.A.F. Station, and farms en route are supplied from the Nafferton Reservoir through a Booster Station sited close to the Reservoir. The Booster sets are operated by crude oil engine power and are in duplicate.

Chlorination of the supplies at both Hutton and Nafferton Pumping Stations is carried out by means of "Wallace and Tiernan's" sets of equipment.

A further 101 connections have been made to the Council's mains for purposes of supply to Farms (20), Fields (17), Existing Houses (30 for 35 houses), New Houses (30), Industrial premises (2), Village Hall (1), and Methodist Chapel (1).

The estimated number (2397) of houses affecting 8,450 of the population taking their supplies from the mains, includes all those supplied from public stand-taps.

During the year 36 samples of water were obtained from the mains and forwarded for bacteriological examination, 4 being examined by the Emergency Pathological Service of the Ministry of Health at Beverley, and 32 by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Hull. On the 5th October an unsatisfactory report was received in respect of a sample taken at Ruston Parva on the 30th September; 11 further samples were taken from the Ruston Parva and Nafferton vicinity, up to and including the 28th October, with varying unsatisfactory reports being received on them, but reports on the samples taken on the 11th November onwards have all shown a "Nil" count, the water being Class 1.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The detailed character and general efficiency or inefficiency of the Drainage and Sewerage of the district is set out in my Annual Report for the year 1937 and the position remains substantially the same. I repeat that the whole of the existing sewers and sewage disposal need revision, the outfalls are out-of-date and unable to cope with the work required of them. In some of the larger villages there is no definite sewerage and sewage disposal provided and there is urgent need for some definite action being taken to put into effect the schemes prepared by D. H. Moore, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.Inst., C.E.; of Scarborough, the Council's Consulting Engineer.

Existing outfalls have received the required attention, and open drains which serve as "Disposals" from the village drains which discharge into them have been cleaned out in order to remove sewage deposits from them. This routine work is carried out by the Council's workmen under supervision of the Sanitary Inspector's assistant.

I have repeatedly pointed out that proper Sewerage and Sewage Disposal is necessary if satisfactory conditions regarding this service are to be obtained. With a "mains" water supply available, the demand is for a water carriage system whereby installation of water closets can be effected, but the existing systems are either totally inadequate or unable to deal with faecal matter. I repeat that some of the larger villages are without any means of sewage disposal and have to rely solely on open drains for this purpose. In many instances private septic tanks with filters are installed to deal with foul drainage containing solids; this method of disposal is adopted chiefly in isolated places, and is recommended, providing there is sufficient fall to give efficient filtration.

Closet Accommodation.

With the urge for a water carriage system and installation of water closets the conversion to pail closets remains practically dormant. The conversion of pail closets and privy middens to water closets proceeds very slowly owing to lack of facilities for proper sewage disposal. Conversions undertaken have been carried out privately and each proposal as to ultimate disposal has had to be carefully considered.

In connection with the Housing Programme water closets are being installed in all cases and, where there is no system of sewerage and sewage disposal, the sewage is being dealt with through septic tanks and filters.

The approximate numbers of the various types of accommodation at the end of the year were 460 water closets, 2,285 pail closets and 360 privy middens, the latter being located in the isolated parts of the district.

Scavenging and Cleansing.

There is no change in the position regarding scavenging of the district. The same procedure still obtains except that the Council's lorry has been brought into operation again.

Nafferton is still the only village where the collection of "Night Soil" is undertaken. The work is carried out by contract, and the contents of all pail closets and the five privy middens are collected by the Contractor and disposed of by him on land for manurial purposes. The pail closets are cleared weekly and privy middens quarterly or oftener if required.

Cleansing of pail closets, privies and ashpits in the remainder of the district is the responsibility of the householders, and this fact is to be deplored. In many instances the amount of land available for disposal by digging in is very limited and, with repetition of this procedure over many years, the land is "sewage sick."

A scheme for scavenging the whole area was prepared by the Sanitary Inspector, in February of this year, and submitted to Parish Councils for consideration and their views, but owing to probable cost of the scheme it was abandoned.

The Council have no facilities for undertaking a service of cleansing of cesspools and this duty falls upon the householder concerned.

The Driffeld R.A.F. Station, which is in the Rural District has a bi-weekly collection from dust bins on the Station. This work is carried out by the Council's motor vehicle and workmen.

A scheme for the collection of Indestructible Household Refuse from the whole of the district is in force, and is carried out by the Council's motor vehicle and workmen. The district is divided into eight areas or groups of villages, each of which is visited on either the first, second, third or fourth Thursday or Friday of each month. By this arrangement, each village is visited and cleared once at least in every month. All material collected has been disposed of by tipping.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following Tabular Statement sets out the number and nature of inspections made, types of premises visited, purpose of these visits, action taken and results of such action.

	Inspections.	No. in District.
Houses—for Rural Housing Survey	116	2672
		(under £20 R.V.)
Houses—for all purposes except R.H. Survey	166	2810
Houses—subsequent visits	41	
Drainage Works—all types of premises	79	
Water Supplies—all types of premises	43	
Shops, other than meat shops	54	44

	8.			
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc. ....	....	212		
Food Inspection ....	....	36		
Ice Cream premises ....	....	7		1
Cowsheds and Dairies ....	....	243		339
Knaackers Yards ....	....	19		1
Rats and Mice destruction ....	....	7		
Informal Action—Houses ....	....	....	....	85
Informal Action—Cowsheds and Dairies ....	....	....	....	41
Informal Action complied with—Houses ....	....	....	....	85
Informal Action complied with—Cowsheds & Dairies ....	....	....	....	41
Nuisances found and remedied ....	....	....	....	19
Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation				11
Houses found overcrowded during the year ....	....	....	....	-
Houses found overcrowded at end of year ....	....	....	....	46
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ....	....	....	....	1
Houses disinfested for vermin ....	....	....	....	1
Privies converted to Pail Closets ....	....	....	....	5
Privies converted to Water Closets ....	....	....	....	23
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets ....	....	....	....	15
Cesspools abolished ....	....	....	....	14
New Houses built by the Council ....	....	....	....	20
New houses built by Private Enterprise ....	....	....	....	5
New houses in course of erection for the Council ....	....	....	....	78
New houses in course of erection by Private Enterprise ....	....	....	....	6
Water samples sent for bacteriological examinations ....	....	....	....	36
Unsatisfactory reports on bacteriological examinations (see last paragraph under Water Supply) ....	....	....	....	16

Shops and Offices.

No action has been taken under either the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of Shops and Offices.

Camping Sites.

There are no Camping Sites in the district and no licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the district, either public or private.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

None of the Council Houses were found to be infested. One private house was reported and on inspection found to be infested with this pest. Double disinfestation was carried out and proved successful in eradicating the pests.

Schools.

No action has been taken by the Council regarding Water Supply and Sanitary Accommodation to Schools. Most of these premises have a laid-on Water Supply from the Council's Mains and the Education Authority is very much alive to the needs in respect of sanitary accommodation.

Section C.

HOUSING.

The provision of completed Council Houses continues to relieve the housing situation, and those nearing completion will do much to alleviate the needs at Hutton Cranswick, Middleton, North Dalton, Langtoft and Kilham. There is still a demand, and the Housing Committee realising this is making every effort to provide the necessary accommodation.

Repair of existing houses has continued and much needed repair and improvement has been brought about.

Council Houses completed during the year include 4 at North Frodingham, 4 at Wansford, 2 at Skerne and 10 at Nafferton; those in course of erection are 28 at Cranswick, 4 at Watton, 20 at Middleton, 8 at North Dalton, 4 at Ruston Parva, 8 at Kilham, and 6 at Langtoft. This makes a total of 20 completed and 78 in course of erection or approaching completion.

There have been no conversions or adaptations in respect of any properties undertaken by the Council.

The one house and four bungalows referred to in my previous Annual Report have been completed by Private Enterprise. Under construction by Private Enterprise at the end of the year there were 2 houses and 4 bungalows. All Private Enterprise is of permanent traditional type.

10.

The provision of Prefabricated Houses either temporary or permanent, or of Swedish Houses, has not been undertaken by either the Council or Private Enterprise.

Not Statutory action has been taken under either Housing or Public Health Acts. Under the conditions of acute housing shortage prevailing, it has not been deemed advisable that any such action should be taken.

Owing to housing shortage, overcrowding does occur and 46 known cases remained at the year end. It is pleasing to note, however, that no fresh cases were found and that in 10 cases this evil was removed in consequence of the provision of completed Council Houses.

Further work on the Rural Housing Survey has been carried out in a lesser degree owing to the services of the Housing Survey Assistant being dispensed with. An additional 116 houses have been inspected and categorised. At the end of the year 1,607 houses had been dealt with out of 2,672 which come under the £20 Rateable Value, and the following table shows in detail the position at the year end:—

No. of houses in district, 2,810; No. under £20 Rateable Value, 2,672

At end of Year:	Total No of inspections:	Categories.					5. Overcrowded
		1.	2.	3.	4.	6	
1947	1491	168	248	608	6	467	56
1948	1607	172	263	694	143	478	46

Category 4 in the above table is included for houses which were suitable for dealing with under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act. This has been taken into account in the year under review and the figures given in Category 4 are not included in the total but will affect the numbers under 3 and 5, particularly those under 5.

Section D.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Liaison between the Officers of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, the County Council and the Public Health Department of this Council has continued on the same satisfactory co-operative basis, in order to maintain the increased milk production and procure higher standards.

Improvements to Cowsheds and Dairies have continued to be effected and many conversions of existing farm buildings have provided excellent accommodation. The call for modern and hygienic methods of milk production has put a greater burden on the Council's Water Mains Supply, this facility having proved a great incentive for the desire.

At the end of the year there were 339 registered Dairies and Cowsheds in the district. Routine and special inspections numbered 243. Informal action was taken in 41 instances in respect of contraventions under the Milk and Dairies Order, 24 for cleansing, 16 for structural defects and 1 for utensils, all of which were immediately remedied.

Meat and Other Foods.

The Central Slaughter-house for the area is situated in the Driffeld Urban District. There is no slaughtering for sale carried out in the Rural District, and the thirteen butchers located in the district obtain their meat from the Central Slaughter-house, retailing it from their own premises and vans. Driffeld butchers also retail meat, by vans, in the Rural District.

Shops, vehicles, and places where food is prepared for sale have all received attention and 212 inspections have been made. No action has been necessary, all the premises being found well kept and clean.

The amount of unsound foodstuffs found has been very small, and includes 17 lbs. of meat in tins, 11 lbs. of butter and 11 lbs. of cheese.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

During the year, Building Licences were issued as under:

In respect of:	No. of Licences:	No. of Houses:	Amount:
New Houses	6	6	£10,000
Conversions or adaptations	5	12	£2,290
Repairs, etc.:			
Housing	98	98	£7,819
Other premises	80	-	£4,509
	189	116	£24,618

Section E.**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

The following cases were notified in 1948:—

					Civilian	Services
Measles	....	....	....	....	97	3
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	78	0
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	11	0
Chicken Pox	....	....	....	....	9	0
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	1	0

Tuberculosis.

Three cases were notified. One of the spine, one of the glands, and the other, miliary tuberculosis.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Number of Children at 31st December, 1948, who had completed a course of Immunization at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1934):—

Age at 31/12/48	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
i.e. Born in years	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1939-1943	1934-1938	under 15
No. Immunized	-	82	123	138	143	463	144	1093

I have to thank the Clerk and Sanitary Inspectors for their help in compiling this Report.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Nafferton.

ALAN MILNER, M.B.

1000